

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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Released: August 28, 2003

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED

How are changes in farm programs affecting agricultural productivity? What land conservation practices are agricultural producers using? To answer these questions and gather reliable, objective information about U.S. agriculture, the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service (IASS) will conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Survey on production practices for barley and potatoes.

This survey will gather information on these crop production practices, chemical applications, and pest management practices. Data collection will begin in October and run through December 2003. Fewer than 12,000 of the Nation's two million farmers will be asked to participate in the survey, so every response is critical. Some 500 producers from Idaho will be included in the survey.

Producers selected to participate in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey will be making an important contribution to the overall welfare of the U.S. agricultural community. This survey gives participants an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides on these crops. Results from this survey will be used to develop agricultural production practices that improve productivity for farm operators and ensure a safer, cleaner working environment for producers, their families, and communities.

Idaho farm operators selected to participate in this year's survey will soon be notified by letter, and interviewers will visit them personally to collect their reports at their convenience. USDA will use the results to publish information on agricultural chemical usage and analyze commodity production costs and returns in a series of reports in 2004.

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey is one way that USDA and producers work together to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistical information and services that help keep U.S. agriculture and rural communities among the most robust in the world.

By law, your individual report is **strictly confidential**. We use your data only to arrive at Idaho and U.S. estimates.

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For additional information on ARMS visit the Economic Research Service (ERS) Web site at www.ers.usda.gov.